

## Chapter 2: Planning Process

### 2 Documenting the Planning Process

Documentation of the planning process, including public involvement, is required to meet FEMA's DMA 2000 (44CFR§201.4(c)(1) and §201.6(c)(1)). This section includes a description of the planning process used to develop this plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how all of the involved agencies participated.

#### 2.1.1 Description of the Planning Process

The Twin Falls County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan was developed through a collaborative process involving all of the organizations and agencies detailed in Section 1.0 of this document. The County's local coordinator contacted these organizations directly to invite their participation and schedule meetings of the planning committee. The planning process included 5 distinct phases which were in some cases sequential (step 1 then step 2) and in some cases intermixed (step 4 completed though out the process):

1. **Collection of Data** about the extent and periodicity of wildfires in and around Twin Falls County. This included an area encompassing Jerome, Owyhee, Cassia, Blaine, Gooding, Elmore and Minidoka Counties to insure a robust dataset for making inferences about fires in Twin Falls County specifically; this included a wildfire extent and ignition profile.
2. **Field Observations and Estimations** about wildfire risks including fuels assessments, juxtaposition of structures and infrastructure to wildland fuels, access, and potential treatments by wildfire specialists, rural fire chiefs and representatives of the BLM and Forest Service.
3. **Mapping** of data relevant to wildfire control and treatments, structures, resource values, infrastructure, fire prone landscapes, and related data.
4. **Facilitation of Public Involvement** from the formation of the planning committee, to a public mail survey, news releases, public meetings, public review of draft documents, and acceptance of the final plan by the signatory representatives.
5. **Analysis and Drafting of the Report** to integrate the results of the planning process, providing ample review and integration of committee and public input, followed by acceptance of the final document.

Planning efforts were led by the Project Director, Dr. William E. Schlosser, of Northwest Management, Inc. Dr. Schlosser holds 4 degrees in natural resource management (A.S. geology; B.S. forest and range management; M.S. natural resource economic & finance; Ph.D. environmental science and regional planning). Project Specialist John T. McGee led community and committee involvement efforts. Fire Management specialists Ken Homik and Dennis Thomas coordinated fire mitigation planning recommendations. Together, they led a team of resource professionals that included fire mitigation specialists, wildfire control specialists, resource management professionals, and hazard mitigation experts.

They were the point-people for team members to share data and information with during the plan's development. They and the planning team met with many residents of the county during the inspections of communities, infrastructure, and hazard abatement assessments. This methodology, when coupled with the other approaches in this process, worked effectively to integrate a wide spectrum of observations and interpretations about the project.

The planning philosophy employed in this project included the open and free sharing of information with interested parties. Information from federal and state agencies was integrated into the database of knowledge used in this project. Meetings with the committee were held throughout the planning process to facilitate a sharing of information between cooperators.

When the public meetings were held, many of the committee members were in attendance and shared their support and experiences with the planning process and their interpretations of the results.

## **2.2 Public Involvement**

Public involvement in this plan was made a priority from the inception of the project. There were a number of ways that public involvement was sought and facilitated. In some cases this led to members of the public providing information and seeking an active role in protecting their own homes and businesses, while in other cases it led to the public becoming more aware of the process without becoming directly involved in the planning process.

### **2.2.1 News Releases**

Under the auspices of the Twin Falls County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Planning Committee, news releases were submitted to the Buhl Herald and the Twin Falls Times News area news papers and radio.

#### **2.2.1.1 Radio Messages**

A short news release was aired over the KEZI, KOOL, and KLIX radio stations the week of July 20, 2004 to announcing the goals of the planning committee, the purpose of the mitigation plan, the date and times of public meetings, and contact information.

#### **2.2.1.2 Newspaper Articles**

Committee and public meeting announcements were submitted to the **Buhl Herald** and the **Twin Falls Times News**. The following is an example of one of the newspaper announcements that was submitted to the local newspaper.

#### **Hot Topic: Twin Falls County Plans to Mitigate Wildfire Risk**

The Twin Falls County Commissioners have created a Wildfire Mitigation Plan Committee to complete a Wildfire Mitigation Plan for Twin Falls County as part of the National Fire Plan authorized by Congress and the Whitehouse. The Twin Falls County Wildfire Mitigation Plans will include risk analysis at the community level with predictive models for where fires are likely to ignite and where they are likely to spread rapidly once ignited. Northwest Management, Inc. has been retained by Twin Falls County to provide wildfire risk assessments, mapping, field inspections, and interviews, and to collaborate with the committee to prepare this plan. The committee includes rural and wildland fire districts, land managers, elected officials, agency representatives, and others. Northwest Management specialists are conducting analyses of fire prone landscapes and making recommendations for potential treatments. Specific activities for homes, structures, infrastructure, and resource capabilities will be proposed as part of the analysis.

One of the most important steps in gathering information about fire risk in Twin Falls County is to conduct a homeowner's survey. Northwest Management, Inc. in cooperation with local fire officials, have mailed a brief survey to randomly selected homeowners in the county seeking details about home construction materials, proximity to water sources, and other risk factors surrounding homes. This survey is very important to the success of the plan. Those homes that receive a survey are asked to please take the time to complete it, thereby benefiting the community overall.

The planning team will be conducting Public Meetings to discuss preliminary findings and to seek public involvement in the planning process in August. A notice on the date and location of these meetings will be posted in local newspapers.

For more information on the Fire Mitigation Plan projects in Twin Falls County, contact your County Commissioner, John McGee, the Twin Falls County local coordinator, at 208-459-8404 or William Schlosser at the Northwest Management, Inc. office in Moscow, Idaho at 208-883-4488.

### **2.2.2 Public Mail Survey**

In order to collect a broad base of perceptions about wildland fire and individual risk factors of homeowners in Twin Falls County, a mail survey was conducted. Using a county database of landowners in Twin Falls County, homeowners from the Wildland-Urban Interface surrounding each community were identified. In order to be included in the database, individuals were selected that own property and have a dwelling in Twin Falls County, as well as a mailing address in Twin Falls County. Residents outside urban areas and city centers were targeted since these are the homes most likely to be exposed to risk factors associated with wildland fire. This database created a list of unique names to which was affixed a random number that contributed to the probability of being selected for the public mail survey. A total of 225 landowners meeting the above criteria were selected.

The public mail survey developed for this project has been used in the past by Northwest Management, Inc., during the execution of other WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plans. The survey used The Total Design Method (Dillman 1978) as a model to schedule the timing and content of letters sent to the selected recipients. Copies of each cover letter, mail survey, and communication are included in Appendix III.

The first in the series of mailing was sent July 20, 2004, and included a cover letter, a survey, and an offer of receiving a custom GIS map of the area of their selection in Twin Falls County if they would complete and return the survey. The free map incentive was tied into assisting their community and helping their interests by participating in this process. Each letter also informed residents about the planning process. A return self-addressed envelope was included in each packet. A postcard reminder was sent to the non-respondents on July 29, 2004, encouraging their response. A final mailing, with a revised cover letter pleading with them to participate, was sent to non-respondents on August 10, 2004.

Surveys were returned during the months of July and August. A total of 102 residents responded to the survey (as of September 10, 2004). No surveys were returned as undeliverable, and two responded that they no longer live in the area. The effective response rate for this survey was 45%. Statistically, this response rate allows the interpretation of all of the response variables significantly at the 99% confidence level.

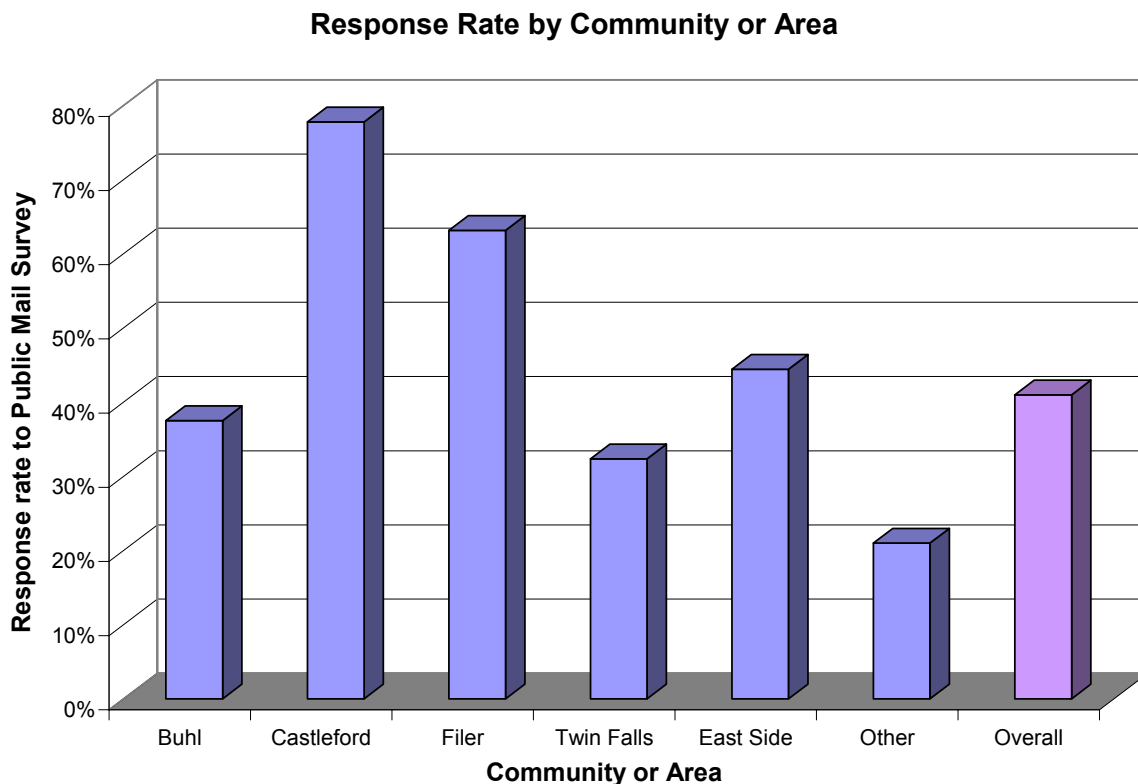
### 2.2.2.1 Survey Results

A summary of the survey's results will be presented here and then referred back to during the ensuing discussions on the need for various treatments, education, and other information. *Survey information will be updated until the completion of the plan.*

Of the survey respondents, 98% have a home within Twin Falls County. All respondents consider this their primary residence. About 63% of the respondents were from the Buhl area, 11% were from the Twin Falls area, 13% were from the Filer area, 6% were from the East Side of the County (including Kimberly, Hansen and Murtaugh) and 7% were from the Castleford area.

Response rates were determined by communities or group of communities within Twin Falls County. The response rate indicates the percent of surveys returned relative to the number of surveys sent to each community (Figure 1.1).

**Figure 1.1. Response Rate to survey by community or area.**



All of the respondents (100%) correctly identified that they have emergency telephone 911 services in their area. Ninety one percent of the respondents correctly identified that they have structural fire protection, while the remaining 9% identified that they did not have any structural protection. Of these, 5% did indeed have structural protection when they indicated that they were in an unprotected area.

Respondents were asked to indicate the type of roofing material covering the main structure of their home. Approximately 58% of respondents indicated their homes were covered with a composite material (asphalt shingles). About 17% indicated their home were covered with a

metal (eg., aluminum, tin) roofing material. Roughly 19% of the respondents indicated they have a wooden roofing material such as shakes or shingles. Two percent of the respondents indicated that they have a ceramic tile roof, and 6% did not indicate what types of roofing material they had.

Residents were asked to evaluate the proximity of brush within certain distances of their homes. Often, the density of brush around a home is an indicator of increased fire risk. The results are presented in Table 2.1

<b>Table 2.1 Survey responses indicating the proximity of brush to homes.</b>		
<b>% area in brush</b>	<b>Within 250 feet of your home</b>	<b>Within 75 feet of your home</b>
No brush	55%	70%
Less than 10% of area	16%	13%
Between 10% and 25%	15%	6%
More than 25% of area	10%	7%

Ninety three percent of those returning the survey indicated they have a lawn surrounding their home. Of these individual home sites, 100% indicated they keep this lawn green through the fire season.

The average driveway length of the respondents was approximately 547 feet long, from their main road to their parking area. Roughly 3% of the respondents had a driveway over ½ mile long, and a corresponding 13% had a driveway over ¼ of a mile long. Of these homes with lengthy driveways, roughly 67% have turnouts allowing two vehicles to pass each other in the case of an emergency. Seventeen percent of the respondents indicate that they have a bridge accessing their property. Of these, 86% indicated that the bridge was adequate to support a heavy fire engine. Approximately 71% of all homeowners indicated they have an alternative escape route, with the remaining 29% indicating only one-way-in and one-way-out.

Nearly all respondents (97%) indicated they have some type of tools to use against a wildfire that threatens their home. Table 2.2 summarizes these responses.

<b>Table 2.2. Percent of homes with indicated fire fighting tools in Twin Falls County.</b>
99% – Hand tools (shovel, Pulaski, etc.)
21% – Portable water tank
13% – Stationery water tank
55% – Pond, lake, or stream water supply close
19% – Water pump and fire hose
26% – Equipment suitable for creating fire breaks (bulldozer, cat, skidder, etc.)

Roughly 27% of the respondents in Twin Falls County indicated they have someone in their household trained in wildland fire fighting. Approximately 18% indicated someone in the household had been trained in structural fire fighting. However, it is important to note that these questions did not specify a standard nor did it refer to how long ago the training was received.

A couple of questions ask whether homeowners conduct periodic fire mitigation efforts on their property. Respondents were asked if they conduct a periodic fuels reduction program near their home sites, such as grass or brush burning. Sixty seven percent of the respondents indicate that they periodically burn or mow grass and brush in the vicinity of their home. Forty eight percent responded that livestock (cattle, horses, sheep) graze the grasses and forbs around their home sites.

Respondents were asked to complete a fuel hazard rating worksheet to assess their home's fire risk rating. An additional column titled "results" has been added to the table, showing the percent of respondents circling each rating (Table 2.3).

**Circle the ratings in each category that best describes your home.**

Table 2.3. Fuel Hazard Rating Worksheet		Rating	Results
<b>Fuel Hazard</b>	Small, light fuels (grasses, forbs, weeds, shrubs)	1	73%
	Medium size fuels (brush, large shrubs, small trees)	2	27%
	Heavy, large fuels (woodlands, timber, heavy brush)	3	0%
<b>Slope Hazard</b>	Mild slopes (0-5%)	1	80%
	Moderate slope (6-20%)	2	12%
	Steep Slopes (21-40%)	3	8%
	Extreme slopes (41% and greater)	4	1%
<b>Structure Hazard</b>	Noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding materials	1	31%
	Noncombustible roof and combustible siding material	3	22%
	Combustible roof and noncombustible siding material	7	17%
	Combustible roof and combustible siding materials	10	30%
<b>Additional Factors</b>	Rough topography that contains several steep canyons or ridges	+2	Average -1.9 pts
	Areas having history of higher than average fire occurrence	+3	
	Areas exposed to severe fire weather and strong winds	+4	
	Areas with existing fuel modifications or usable fire breaks	-3	
	Areas with local facilities (water systems, rural fire districts, dozers)	-3	

#### Calculating your risk

Values below are the average response value to each question.

Fuel hazard	<u>1.2</u>	x	Slope Hazard	<u>1.3</u>	=	<u>2.5</u>
Structural hazard		+		<u>5.1</u>		
Additional factors		(+ or -)		<u>-1.9</u>		
Total Hazard Points		=		<u>5.7</u>		

**Table 2.4. Percent of respondents in each risk category as determined by the survey respondents.**

00% – Extreme Risk = 26 + points
05% – High Risk = 16–25 points
30% – Moderate Risk = 6–15 points
65% – Low Risk = 6 or less points

Maximum household rating form score was 16 points, as assessed by the homeowners. These numbers were compared to observations made by field crews trained in wildland fire fighting. These results indicate that for the most part, these indications are only slightly lower than the risk rating assigned by the “professionals”. Anecdotal evidence would indicate that Twin Falls County landowners involved in this survey have a more realistic view of wildfire risk than the landowners in other Idaho counties where these questions have been asked.

Finally, respondents were asked “if offered in your area, would members of your household attend a free, or low cost, one-day training seminar designed to teach homeowners in the wildland–urban interface how to improve the defensible space surrounding your home and adjacent outbuildings?” Approximately 46% of the respondents indicated a desire to participate in this type of training.

Homeowners were also asked, “How do you feel Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Mitigation projects should be funded in the areas surrounding homes, communities, and infrastructure such as power lines and major roads?” Responses are summarized in Table 2.5.

**Table 2.5. Public Opinion of Wildfire Mitigation Funding Preferences.**

	Mark the box that best applies to your preference		
	100% Public Funding	Cost-Share (Public & Private)	Privately Funded (Owner or Company)
<b>Home Defensibility Projects</b>	15%	36%	48%
<b>Community Defensibility Projects</b>	46%	42%	12%
<b>Infrastructure Projects Roads, Bridges, Power Lines, Etc.</b>	63%	22%	16%

#### **2.2.2.2 Committee Meetings**

The following list of people who participated in the planning committee meetings, volunteered time, or responded to elements of the Twin Falls County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan’s preparation.

- Bill Brockman .....Twin Falls County Commissioner
- Bud Compher .....Filer Fire Department
- C.W. Bill Robinson .....Rock Creek Fire Department
- Curtis Jensen .....Bureau of Land Management
- Dennis S. Thomas.....Northwest Management, Inc.
- Earl Tyree.....Buhl Fire Department
- Ed Gudgell .....Twin Falls County Sheriff
- Gary Grindstaff.....Twin Falls County Commissioner
- Jackie Frey .....Department of Emergency Services
- Jody Galan .....Twin Falls County Commissioner
- John McGee.....Northwest Management, Inc.

- Jon Skinner .....Bureau of Land Management
- Julie Thomas.....Mid-Snake RC&D
- Ken Homik.....Northwest Management, Inc.
- Mark Grimes.....Buhl Fire Department
- Rochelle Ahrens.....Sawtooth National Forest
- Rod Davis.....Salmon Tract Rural Fire Department
- Ron Clark .....Twin Falls City Fire Chief
- Seth Christensen.....Castleford Fire Protection District
- Toby Brown .....Northwest Management, Inc.
- Tom Mikesell .....Twin Falls County Commissioner
- Tony Beitia .....Sawtooth National Forest
- Wayne Tousley .....Twin Falls County Sheriff
- William E. Schlosser .....Northwest Management, Inc.

Committee Meetings were scheduled and held on the following dates:

#### **January 24, 2004**

John McGee opened the first meeting of the Twin Falls Fire Mitigation Planning Committee by making introductions and explaining the planning process. He also went over specific information the committee would need to provide and approximate completion dates for each step of the project. The committee agreed that the fourth Tuesday of each month would work for everybody present. The location of each meeting can change depending on availability of meeting venues. Contact information was exchanged between members.

John presented the committee with a set of preliminary maps created by Northwest Management, Inc. Members were then asked to review the maps, make corrections, and identify significant infrastructure.

John discussed the importance of the resources and capabilities guide and asked fire departments to either e-mail filled out forms to him or Dr. Schlosser at NMI. They also need to update the County's Operations Plan.

NMI personnel have already made assessments of each community including fuels, access, potential treatments, and pictures. These assessments will be handed out as soon as possible. The committee was asked to provide any information on past, current, or planned fire mitigation projects.

John discussed the importance of public involvement to the planning process. Any community members interested are welcome to attend the committee meetings. Additionally, the public survey will be distributed as soon as the Assessor's office is able to provide the cadastral data. Public information meetings will also be held towards the end of the planning process to share information with residents and gather any additional input.

#### **February 24, 2004**

John McGee from NMI opened the meeting by introducing new attendees and updating the committee on accomplishments since the last meeting. March 23, 2004 was confirmed for the next meeting date.



The maps that were reviewed at the last meeting are in the process of being updated and will be presented for another round of changes at the next meeting.

The resources and capabilities guide was discussed in detail. Fire departments need to make sure they include future needs and projections for their districts as well as a “Wish List” of new equipment, better training, facility updates, etc. A short list of needs was compiled.

- Digital radios – need to update to narrow band (SIRCOMM)
- Repeaters/Antennas – SIRCOMM did not put in repeater near Buhl for tactical units, so during busy fire seasons Mark must use SIRCOMM as the repeater. There are also major dead spots by Hollister (Shoshone Basin).
- SIRCOMM needs to install repeater near Rock Creek because there is currently no communication network in this area.
- All districts need water tenders
- Update apparatus
- Need better training of firefighters as well as incentives for recruitment and retention. Would support the development of a central training center, so that local training was more feasible. (Red card, hazmat, pathogens, ladder work, LPG and natural gas, and vehicle extrication)
- Fire Works trunks and more access to education programs and teachers
- Grant writer

### **March 23, 2004**

John opened the meeting by updating the committee on NMI accomplishments, which included completion of the draft community assessments and updated maps. John presented a completed version of the Adams County plan, so members could see what the final product should look like. Chapters 3 and 4 involving the community assessments, fire department information, and specific recommendations were discussed at length.

NMI is still waiting for information from Rock Creek and Castleford Fire Departments. Curtis will help get this information.

Questions were asked regarding the survey information. John explained that addresses in major population centers, such as Twin Falls, will be thrown out of the data base. The BLM would like to work with NMI to make sure areas of concern are covered by the surveys.

### **April 27, 2004**

John McGee, Northwest Management, Inc., began the meeting by handing out the draft versions of the community assessments. Committee members were asked to review the document and send changes and corrections either to him or Dr. Schlosser in Moscow. Ken Homik, Northwest Management, Inc. is trying to set up meetings with all of the fire departments to discuss and complete the resources and capabilities guide. This information must be completed ASAP.

John presented the new GIS map set for corrections by the committee. Primary and secondary escape routes, repeater locations, water sources, etc. need to be identified on the maps. The County Assessor's office needs to send NMI the cadastral data in order for public surveys to be prepared.

Twin Falls County is currently involved in the Red Zone program, which is software that allows officials to collect fire related information such as home site assessments and areas of concern and compile the data.

The committee would like electronic copies of the community assessments, resources and capabilities guide, and draft plan.

### **July 27, 2004**

John McGee, Northwest Management, Inc. began the committee meeting by listing NMI's accomplishments since the last meeting. 241 public survey forms were sent out on July 20. The 1<sup>st</sup> reminder postcard will be sent on July 30 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey will be sent around the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. Press releases sent out to the three area radio stations and Times News and Buhl Herald. Results will be compiled and updated during the remainder of the planning process.

NMI is continuing to update the community assessments draft document as comments and changes come in. Ken Homik, NMI, spent the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in the county talking to local fire chiefs and integrating new information into the assessments. There was a short discussion concerning the format used in the Buhl assessment. Additional comments should be directed to Ken Homik.

All of the resources and capabilities guides have been collected! This information can now be integrated into the final document. The committee reviewed and discussed some of the action items that have been identified so far.

There have been no recent changes to the maps; however, if any additional corrections need to be made contact Dr. Schlosser at NMI in Moscow.

The committee is currently in the process of collecting proposed and past wildland treatments or mitigation activities that have taken place in the county. The BLM and the Forest Service are providing information. Specific recommendations for each community were also discussed.

### **August 24, 2004**

This was a review of the draft version of the Twin Falls Fire Mitigation Plan. The meeting immediately began with a discussion of east side public participation. Few surveys had been tallied within the Rock Creek protection area. It was uncertain as to whether this was due to lack of response by east side residents or whether the mailing was somehow skewed to the west side. A number of possible alternatives were discussed, including an additional public meeting and additional survey distributions. No decision on what corrective action, if any, would be taken until after mailing information could be ascertained.

Very productive discussion on all components of the plan where held. There was interest in developing an Executive Summary for easier public consumption. Ken Homik from NMI indicated that Chapters 4 and 5 could be clipped out of the document, with references made to the main document for distribution to interested individuals.

Review, corrections, and clarifications on the Community Assessments and Mitigation Activities were made for the bulk of the meeting. Edits would be forwarded to Ken Homik of NMI for incorporation into the plan. A revised schedule for committee and public review as well as final review was agreed upon.

#### **2.2.2.3 Public Meetings**

Formal public meetings were scheduled on August 11, 2004, in Hansen and Twin Falls, on August 12, 2004 at Buhl, and September 15, 2004, in Kimberly. The purpose of these meetings was to share information on the planning process with a broadly representative cross section of Twin Falls County landowners. All meetings had wall maps posted in the meeting rooms with many of the analysis results summarized specifically for the risk assessments, location of structures, fire protection, and related information.

Attendance at the public meetings included four individuals at Hansen, five at the meeting in Twin Falls, five at the meeting in Buhl, and .

**2.2.2.3.1 Hansen Public Meeting**

**August 11 – City Meeting Hall – 5:30 pm**

**2.2.2.3.2 Twin Falls Public Meeting**

**August 11, 2004 – Twin Falls Fire Department - 7:30pm**

**2.2.2.3.3 Buhl Public Meeting**

**August 12, 2004 – Buhl City Hall – 6:00 pm**

**2.2.2.3.4 Kimberly Public Meeting**

**September 15, 2004 – Rock Creek Fire Station – 5:00 pm**

A public meeting was held at the Rock Creek Fire Department in Kimberly on September 15th at 5:00 PM. The meeting was held to discuss with and inform the public in the Kimberly area of Twin Falls County about the Twin Falls County Fire Mitigation Plan. Bill Brockman, Twin Falls County Commissioner was in attendance. John McGee with NMI gave a presentation about NMI and the Wildfire Mitigation Plan and Commissioner Brockman talked about the working group. Northwest Management contacted over 50 residents by phone to inform them of the meeting.

The group brought up some questions including what the recommended distance was going to be on firebreaks along major roadways in the county. Bill Robison explained that the Cassia Co. FMP listed a 200 ft. barrier, but that the Twin Falls Co. FMP group decided that a cross county standard was unnecessary because of the variation of terrain and circumstances across the county. Bill Robison also noted the use of cattle grazing as a method to reduce fuels in the county.

The group also asked about the disposal of brush and fuel removed from private property. The group determined that there was such a program and that Curtis Jensen with the BLM or Julie Thomas with the RC & D needed to be contacted for more information.

**2.2.2.3.5 Meeting Notices**

Public notices of these meetings were submitted to the **Buhl Herald** and the **Twin Falls Times News**. The notices were asked to run from August 4 to August 12, 2004.

**Twin Falls County Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan**

The public is invited to attend meetings and provide input concerning in the Twin Falls County Fire Mitigation Plan. The Plan includes risk analysis at the community level with predictive models for where fires are likely to ignite and where they are likely to spread rapidly once ignited. The committee involved includes rural and wildland fire districts, land managers, elected officials, agency representatives, and others.

For more information on the Fire Mitigation Plan or if you have questions contact Northwest Management, Inc. project managers William Schlosser or Dennis Thomas at (208) 883-4488, the Twin Falls local coordinator John McGee at (208) 459-8404, or your County Commissioner.

Meeting dates and locations are listed below:

**August 11, 2004** 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Hansen City Meeting Hall

½ block from 388 Main

**August 11, 2004** 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Twin Falls Fire Department

345 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue E.

(next to City Hall)

**August 12, 2004** 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Buhl City Hall

203 Broadway Avenue N.

### ***2.3 Review of the WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan***

Reviews of sections of this document were conducted by the planning committee during the planning process as maps, summaries, written assessments and mitigation recommendations were completed. These individuals included fire mitigation specialists, fire fighters, planners, elected officials, BLM representatives and others involved in the coordination process. Preliminary findings were discussed and comments were collected and integrated into the plan.

A formal review of the DRAFT plan was conducted by planning committee members from August 18, 2004 until September 10, 2004. Numerous comments, suggestions, and edits were provided and integrated into the revised plan submitted for Public Review. The Public Review document was made available on September 10, 2004, at the County Courthouse, local Libraries, the US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management offices in Twin Falls County. The Public Review process is open from September 10, until September 24, 2004. The Twin Falls County Commissioners are expected to vote on, and accept the finalized plan on September 28, 2004.

All comments to this Draft of the plan should be in writing and provided to one of the County Commissioners, or sent directly to Northwest Management, Inc., in care of Ken Homik at [Homik@consulting-foresters.com](mailto:Homik@consulting-foresters.com) or by fax to Northwest Management, Inc. at 208-883-1098.